

CCF-ers Sit in Stony Silence As Party Break Is Explained

Two former C.C.F. members occupied the spotlight in a session of the Ontario Legislature which lasted exactly 20 minutes yesterday. Leslie Hancock, Wellington South, and Nelson Alles, Essex North, who parted company with the C.C.F. over matters of policy, took the floor before the orders of the day to explain why they were no longer sitting with the C.C.F.

Mr. Alles said he was ready to cooperate with any political party to bring about needed legislation, and he believed his views were those of his riding and to a large extent those of most people. The public was afraid that policy strategy would come first and true representation second, he said.

The isolationist attitude of the

C.C.F. was the reason given by Mr. Hancock for his departure from their ranks. He had changed seats, he said, but not his purpose, "which is to co-operate with any one and every one who will work for greater freedom and welfare of the common man."

The C.C.F. membership listened in stony silence.

Vital Statistics Method Clarified By Proposed Act

Virtual elimination of the existing Vital Statistics Act which has not been changed in any major respect since 1869, is seen in a series of amendments to be introduced in the Legislature by Provincial Secretary George Dunbar. Mention of the proposed revision was made in the Speech from the Throne.

The present act is described as "antiquated" and "extremely vague." The amendments will tighten departmental control of vital statistics and remove the obsolete provisions.

Increased penalties for false registration are provided in the bill, and in the section dealing with penalties there is provision for jail sentence.

Affects Funeral Directors

In the matter of registration of deaths the duties of funeral directors are made more specific. Under the present act the responsibility for filling in the registration on a death certificate and forwarding it to the division registrar is not defined. The new amendment seeks to have the onus placed on funeral directors.

Closer supervision of the 1,000 division registrars in Ontario is another aim of the Dunbar measure. Medical men who are required to make out certificates in connection with deaths will be checked more stringently.

Stresses Need of Accuracy

The necessity of compiling accurate birth statistics was stressed by Ralph Wallace, registrar of the vital statistics branch. He pointed out that the Family Allowances Act comes into effect next July, and if there is any slip-up in recording births the families concerned will be the losers.

The vagueness of many sections of the existing statute will be removed, and in their place will be substituted clearly stated specific provisions.

Mr. Wallace represented Ontario at a Dominion-Provincial conference on vital statistics at Ottawa last July. At this conference a report on suggested changes submitted by Mr. Wallace was endorsed by the delegates representing the other Provinces.